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Viewing cable 09STATE11821, AF ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY CALL TO MALI

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#09STATE11821**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
09STATE11821	2009-02-09 20:40	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Secretary of State

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/story/2011/05/05/wikileaks-robert-fowler-niger-government-cables.html>

VZCZCXYZ0000
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHC #1821 0402055
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O P 092040Z FEB 09
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUEHBP/AMEMBASSY BAMAKO IMMEDIATE 0203
INFO RUEHNM/AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY 4644
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 3864
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

=====CABLE ENDS=====

id: 191160
date: 2/9/2009 20:40
refid: 09STATE11821
origin: Secretary of State
classification: CONFIDENTIAL
destination:
header:
VZCZCXYZ0000
OO RUEHWEB
DE RUEHC #1821 0402055
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O P 092040Z FEB 09
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO RUEHBP/AMEMBASSY BAMAKO IMMEDIATE 0203

INFO RUEHNM/AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY 4644

RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 3864

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

----- header ends -----

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 011821

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/08/2019

TAGS: [PTER](#) [ML](#) [CA](#)

SUBJECT: AF ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY CALL TO MALI

PRESIDENT RE CANADIAN HOSTAGES

Classified By: Acting A/S Phil Carter for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

[¶1.](#) (C) Summary: Two Canadian nationals, United Nations Special Envoy Robert Fowler and Special Assistant Louis Guay, and Nigerien national Soumaina Mounkaila are currently being held in northern Mali by Al Qaida in the Lands of the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). In response to a February 2 Canadian demarche, AF Acting Assistant Secretary Phillip Carter called Malian President Amadou Toumani Toure on February 9 to encourage him to continue Mali's cooperation with the United Nations (UN) and Canada in their efforts to rescue the three hostages and urge him to make resolution of this case a priority for the GOM.

[¶2.](#) (C) Carter asked for Toure's perspectives on the urgent situation with the Canadian hostages, including Ambassador Fowler. Carter stressed its importance to the UN, Canadians, and United States, saying that these three men were important to UN work on the Sahel, and that if this situation continues, it will hurt Mali's image for private investment. Toure said they were in constant contact and coordinating with the Canadians, and that the hostages were in good health. Carter noted concern that the situation had become complicated with the kidnapping of a second group of Europeans: the Canadian government had a policy of not paying ransom which may differ from the European approach. Toure assured him the two groups were being treated separately and Mali would act with the consent of the Canadian government. When Carter asked what the United States can do, Toure responded that they need information, especially on the location of the hostages, who are frequently moved around Mali and its bordering countries.

[¶3.](#) (C) Later in the day, Acting AF/W Director met with the Canadian POLCON. He reported the conversation and relayed Toure's request for information, particularly on the location of the hostages.

[¶4.](#) (U) Acting A/S Phillip Carter has cleared on this cable.

CLINTON

=====CABLE ENDS=====